

Praise for *Uniquely Human: A Different Way of Seeing Autism*

Barry M. Prizant, Ph.D., with Tom Fields-Meyer (Simon & Schuster)

(From *Self-advocates, Researchers, Educators, Clinicians and Parent-Professionals*)

From Leading Self-Advocates with Autism

“Dr. Prizant explains the causes of behaviors associated with autism. I love his approach for understanding problems with sensory overload, anxiety and discomfort. He provides common sense practical advice based on a 40-year career working in the trenches with both parents and teachers”.

- Temple Grandin, Ph.D., Author of *The Autistic Brain* and *The Way I See It*

With the precision of a consummate scientist combined with the wisdom of a sage, Barry leverages his deep understanding of people with autism, revealing that individuals on the spectrum are just like everyone else – but perhaps just more so. This unique book is a must read for anyone desiring a deeper understanding, through the lens of a seasoned and mindful professional in the field of autism, answering the bigger question what it means to be human”.

Stephen Mark Shore, Ed.D.

Clinical Assistant Professor of Special Education at Adelphi University
Internationally renowned author of 4 books, consultant

“Uniquely Human is not just the perfect title for Barry Prizant's book, it's also an appropriate summation of Dr. Prizant's career. Though a clinical scholar, he is a humanist first, and always has been—a professional who is fascinated by unexamined lives that could be lived happily, yet aren't. With every brilliant, illuminating example in his book, he steers us away from the traditional fix-it mentality and towards the beatific, personally rewarding detective work that the entire spectrum world would be well served to adopt. Thanks be to Barry for the first-ever ‘must read’ written for parents, educators, and clinicians”.

- Michael John Carley, parent-professional with ASD, Founder, GRASP; speaker, author of *Asperger's From the Inside-Out*

"Uniquely Human offers a valuable contribution to the public conversation on autism. Barry Prizant offers a new approach for professionals consistent with what many autistic people have been saying. The book is well worth reading."

-- Ari Ne'eman, President, Autism Self-Advocacy Network

Reading this book was like a breath of fresh air! The author explains autistic reality for what it largely is - employing solutions to make living in a world mismatched to our neurology possible...Thank you Barry Prizant for pushing the envelope towards that future day when society might view autistic people as sharing their world...Thank you most for already seeing us in that way.

Judy Endow, MSW, Blogger, Author, Artist, Parent with autism

From World-renowned Researchers

“This is a wonderful book. Based on his own vast experience as a clinician working with children with autism and families, Barry Prizant offers a compassionate and insightful perspective on autism that many will find inspiring and hopeful. The book is filled with sound advice based on real world experience as well as research. Most importantly, it conveys a deep respect for persons on the autism spectrum and the qualities that make them special.”

- **Geraldine Dawson, PhD** FAPA FAPS, Director, Duke Center for Autism and Brain Development, Duke University School of Medicine; President, International Society for Autism Research

"From the master clinician and scholar who taught us how to channel different learning styles into successful lives of learning and adaptation, Uniquely Human shines a light onto the vast possibilities of people with autism, showing that their lives represent opportunities, not disabilities; promise, not doom. Heed his detailed guidance because therein lies not only the secret for the fulfillment of every child's promise, but also the fulfillment of the promise of our entire society.”

- **Ami Klin PhD**, Director, Marcus Autism Center, Professor & Chief, Division of Autism and Related Disorders Department of Pediatrics, Emory University School of Medicine

“An excellent book that conveys what autism is like and how individuals with autism may be helped to build on their strengths and gain a greater social understanding. The approach involves much practical guidance for families and teachers, but it is refreshingly flexible and non-dogmatic”.

- **Professor Sir Michael Rutter**, Child Psychiatrist, Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience, King's College London

“A masterful treatise advocating for necessary changes in the way we see, understand and provide services to persons with autism. This is a book for all parents and persons providing professional services to individuals with significant disabilities, not just those with autism. My hope is that this exceptional book will bring about the change in thinking and practice it is intended to do.”

- **David E. Yoder, Ph.D.**, Chair & Professor Emeritus, Dept. of Allied Health Sciences, UNC School of Medicine, Chapel Hill, NC

From Parent-Professionals

“This is by far the most empathic, wise, and insightful book I have ever read about autism, and is one of the most empathic and wise books I’ve ever read about being human. I can’t overstate the transformative power of this book: it breaks open the heart, extends vision where there was only fog, and inspires keen insight where there was only reflexive response.”

-- **Rabbi Bradley Shavit Artson**, Vice President and Dean’s Chair, American Jewish University, Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies and parent

 “In the plethora of autism books, Uniquely Human stands alone as it holds the parents in highest of regard and honors the true experts - those with autism themselves. It will be the first book I recommend to parents whose children are recently diagnosed, and it will be the last book that seasoned parents of adults with autism will need to read. Uniquely Human reminds us all of our humanity.”

- **Elaine Hall**, parent-professional, Founder of The Miracle Project™, Author of Seven Keys to Unlock Autism

 “I have read a million and one books on Autism. “Uniquely Human” is the best book I have ever read, hands down. The section on echolalia gave me an insight into my son so clearly I wept with relief... I’m blown away by some of the things I read and I just think that you really have written the paradigm of autism books. Thank you Barry for this incredible gift!!!!

- **Navah Paskovitz**, Mom of three boys with Autism, parent advocate

 Dr. Prizant addresses some of the more well-known myths about autism and what they mean. He gently, but firmly, explains and dismisses every idea that at present is holding back an autistic person's acceptance into the mainstream of society. In the end, I can't recommend this book highly enough. It's nice that someone in the (professional) world not only "gets it," but "gets it" big time.

- **Elise Ronan**, parent, blogger, Practicalsutism.com

From Leading Educators and Therapists

“Autism was initially described in 1943, and now with *Uniquely Human*, it is rediscovered 70 years later as a shared human experience. Autism is part of every community, and this tour of autism changes everything. Now, autism makes sense, and tomorrow looks a whole lot brighter for everyone. Stop what you are doing. Read this book. It’s a masterpiece”.

- **Carol Gray**, Educator, Developer of Social Stories, International Consultant to Individuals with Autism

“A long-awaited tour-de-force that parts the ever-expanding sea of books on the topic of autism. A must-read for anyone who lives with and loves a person with autism, this book should also be required for anyone who is striving to be a competent and humanistic professional.”

--**Pamela Wolfberg, Ph.D.** Professor of Autism Spectrum Studies, San Francisco State University; Founding Director, Autism Institute on Peer Socialization and Play; Author of *Play and Imagination in Children with Autism*

"Elegant in its simplicity, *Uniquely Human* tackles extremely complex topics and how they impact school, home and community. Compassion, learning and supportive strategies--the three essentials for working with folks with ASD--are an integral part of this must-read book".

-- **Michelle Garcia Winner**, Speech-Language Pathologist-Founder of Social Thinking®

“*Uniquely Human* is an amazing book! It will change our perception and understanding of autism. Barry Prizant has an intuitive understanding of autism spectrum disorders and the wisdom of four decades of experience. I strongly recommend this book to parents and professionals, and congratulate Barry for writing the book that needed to be written”.

--**Tony Attwood, Ph.D.** Author of *The Complete Guide to Asperger’s Syndrome*

“The reverence that Dr. Prizant brings to his work with individuals with autism and their families leaps out from every page of this remarkable book, enabling him to tell the story of autism in a deeply personal way that is at once inspirational and informative. The engaging, real-life examples interspersed throughout the book serve both to illuminate the experience of autism from the inside out, and to expose the folly of viewing behavior separate and apart from the motivation that fuels it. That is epochal!”

--**Diane Twachtman-Cullen**, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, Editor-in-Chief, *Autism Spectrum Qtlly*

 Uniquely Human is “amazing, a game-changer”.

Brenda Smith Myles, Author of “The Hidden Curriculum”, Educator

From Trade and major periodical reviews and Authors

Starred Review

“A remarkable new approach to autism. The key to successfully connecting with and helping children with autism is deceptively simple: don't make assumptions, ask them questions about their feelings and behavior, listen closely to their responses, and try to understand the reasoning behind their actions...Backed by cogent, compassionate anecdotes drawn from [Prizant's] many years in the field...A truly impactful, necessary book.” - **Kirkus Reviews, STARRED Review**

Starred Review

Autism expert Prizant shares his decades of on-the-ground experience and wisdom in this uplifting inquiry... This positive volume should reassure parents and caregivers of kids with autism and any other disability that their kids are not broken, but, indeed, special. – **Booklist Starred Review**

“Editor's Choice” (Nature) – July, 2015

Prizant distills decades of working with autistic children and adults, and their teams, into practical advice for lowering stress, leveraging strengths and interests, building resilience and, importantly, embracing and celebrating difference. Prizant's is a message of empathy, support and empowerment. Prizant shows, such understanding creates a context in which people with ASD can thrive, not just survive. - **Nature**

 “Brilliant!, Barry Prizant rejects the “deficit model” to write his superb book”.

- **Steven Silberman**, Science Writer, Wired Magazine, author of “Neurotribes: The Legacy of Autism and the Future of Neurodiversity”
